The Middleburgh Post.

Published every Thursday.

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Editor and Proprietor

Subscription $1.50 per year.

(which must be paid in advance when sent outside the county.)

RATES OF ADVERTISING.

All transient advertisements not otherwise contracted for will be charged at the rate of 15 cents per line (nonpariel measure) for first insertion and 10 cents per line for every subsequent insertion.

☞ *Death notices published free; obituary poetry, tributes of respect, &c., three cents a line.*

Cows in the Cotton Belt.

In a recent bulletin of the department of agriculture Prof. Hnecker states that the farmers of the cotton belt are undergoing an experience which comes sooner or later to every section of our land. Wheat was grown almost exclusively in the north until the soil refused to respond. No one seemed to know why, but when wheat failed tfiey began to depend more upon live stock. As the live stock increased the land brought better crops, and it gradually dawned upon them that the failure of crops was due to lack of fertility and that by diversified farming they could restore it and secure as good, if not better, returns than they received from the virgin soil. In the same way the soil of the cotton belt has been impoverished by constant cropping and inadequate fertilizing. It is not in the cotton nor in the oil extracted from the seeds that the fertility is lost, but it is in the parting with the cotton seed cake or meal to Europe that the loss occurs. If the cake and meal be fed to dairy cows all the fertility will remain on the plantation. The professor's advice to cotton growers is, therefore: "Go into dairying with the dairy cow."

Experiments conducted by the California agricultural experiment station seem to indicate that by the introduction of the Australian "salt bushes," hundreds of thousands of acres of hitherto worthless land in our western states will become valuable for grazing. The "salt bushes" are members of a large plant family, to which the beet and pigweed also belong, but only a few varieties have any economic value. That which has given the best results in the west is atriplex semibaccata. The plants of this family have great drought-resisting power, and will grow on soil too alkaline to sustain even alfalfa. They keep green all summer, grow rapidly, yield from two to four crops a year, and the root remains in the ground for the next season. They have great fattening and health-giving qualities for stock, making the best of beef, and wool of unsurpassed evenness and strength of fiber. The introduction of these plants is another proof that science pays, even in farming.

Crosses at the foot of a letter are out of date now that some girl has discovered what is said to be a far better way of sending a kiss to her — particular girl chum. The discovery was made by accident, and it was quite by chance that the young lady who claims the credit noticed a pink impress of her own lips just below the signature of the letter she had just written. It came about in this way: She had just been out in the wind and rubbed lip salve with its dash of rouge over her lips, and this was the result — a somewhat greasy kiss, but a decided improvement upon the scratchy cross. At all events, the lady persevered, and now it is the fashion in certain quarters for the girls to dust their lips with powder, slightly damp the paper, kiss it, and send the mark to her girl friend—or somebody else. It works wery well, and the "kisses" don't run.

"Cash K." is the curious verbal disguise under which, for ten years past, some generous person, who uses an Omaha paper as his agency, has given many thousands of dollars to worthy people and deserving objects. No one but the editor of the paper knows who the hidden philanthropist is. Yet happily, although "Cash K." is able to give large sums of money, he is only a type of many who, in equally self-effacing ways, are offering help and hope to the needy and the unfortunate.

An Aurora (Ill.) man has discovered an effective way of keeping his neighbors' chickens out of his garden. It is not altogether new. It consists of a reasonably good shotgun and plenty of ammunition back of a good steady aim and some nerve. It is said to work almost every time.

The Weekly Witness reports that Evansville, Ind., has a proselyting constable, who has persuaded over 100 offenders to renounce their evil ways. He has the assistance and sympathy of the judge of the local court. He tried to persuade his criminals to join the church.

At a seaside resort near New York a village of real Filipinos is on exhibition. The 16 natives, fresh from Manila, occupy a number of bamboo huts hung with gaudy fabrics made in the Philippines. Music on native instruments is a prominent feature of the show.

It is said a German workman has perfected a process for making coal out of earth. This is to be regretted. The earth at least ought to be retained for agricultural and residence purposes.

Good News for Ham Actors.

Anybody who has ever walked on a railway track knows what an uncomfortable thing it is to do, because of the absurd distance of the ties from one another. They are too near together for a man of average length of leg to step on every one and they are too far apart for him to step on every other one. Now that the railways have begun to use oil on their tracks to lay the dust there is hope of still further innovations for the comfort of travelers. It is reported that certain western roads are laying new tracks with the ties four inches further apart than was formerly the custom. The possible effect of this on the drama can scarcely be overestimated. In the old days it used to be the custom for actors returning from unsuccessful tours to step on every other tie and hence came the exaggerated stride of the old-school tragedian. Recently it has been more the custom to try to step on every tie and hence the habit of littleness and triviality which has been carried into every branch of the drama. With the ties placed at distances which will allow of a comfortable step it is reasonable to hope that ease and grace will be infused into the naturalistic school of the drama, with lasting artistic effect. It was an actor who was explaining all this to some friends the other day, and when he had finished he noticed that they were all gazing at him with silent sympathy in their faces. For a moment he looked confused and then he said: "Of course—you know—I don't know anything about this myself. But I know men who are expert trackwalkers, and they have been telling me about it."

American still sustains its reputation as being the headquarters of the world for economic entomology. Mr. Hunter, in a memoir just issued from the University of Kansas, treats of a locust or grasshopper which is threatening to destroy the alfalfa. "In alfalfa culture, if the grasshopper proves an incentive to cultivation the insect is a blessing in disguise. Disking alfalfa fields in the early spring, after the frost has left the ground and before vegetation has well started, increases the yield of the crop one-third, matures the second crop earlier, and brings from it an equally increased yield; destroys the native grasshopper eggs placed therein, and kills the native grasses, which frequently threaten to reclaim the field."

According to a decision just handed down in New York, a landlord can compel his tenant to come to his office and pay his rent. He need not hunt up the tenant and ask: "How about that little matter?" but can sit down and sue and secure judgment against him. A landlord telephoned his tenant last January and asked him to come around with the rent, but the tenant said: "Come and get it." More words passed, with the result that both engaged lawyers. It has just been decided in the landlord's favor, and it cost the tenant $200 to find this out.

It is not paradoxical, as it might seem, to call the ending of the college or school course commencement, says Youth's Companion. Every ending is also a beginning. Theory ends, practice begins. War ends, peace begins. Life in one form ends, life in another form begins. Night ends, day begins. So study of books ends, and the application of that study to the wider study of the world and to the tasks of life begins. The schoolboy ends, the scholarly man begins. That is the purport of commencement, and for it no fitter name could be devised.

The American workman is limited only by circumstances within his own life. He or his son may rise to the highest position in his nation without the favor of heredity. The highest honors are attainable without the intervention of royal favor. This is the incentive to American effort. Not that every individual American thinks of this or appreciates the boon, not by any means. But a great many of them do fully understand what their national heritage means and the remainder are carried along in the irresistible current.

The Mennonites of Pennsylvania, whose general conference recently interdicted the use of tobacco in any form, do not propose to let this prohibition interfere with their worldly affairs. The farmers of the colony keep right on planting tobacco, getting around it by saying that if their industry is so displeasing to the Lord the tobacco will not grow. The outlook at present is for a bountiful crop.

A Maine farmer who raises fine strawberries came to Wells village with a fine lot recently and commenced peddling them at 15 cents a box. He sold quite a portion of his load at that price, when he found that he must sell at two boxes for a quarter. Then he retraced his route and refunded the difference to all those who had paid the 15 cents per box.

During a thunderstorm in southern Missouri the other day, lightning struck the hat off a man's head and tore it to ribbons, but did not injure the man, so it is claimed, but without affidavit.

A Watertown (N. Y.) peddler has been sent to jail for four months because he kissed a child without permission being first obtained.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

A great lake steamer can go up to Hudson, 117 miles from the mouth; that is 130 miles from the nearest point on Lake Ontario and 240 from the nearest point on Lake Erie.

If the number of people daily entering the city of London were to be dispatched from any given station by train 1,977 trains, each conveying 600 persons, would be required for the purpose. Moreover, if all these trains were arranged in a straight line they would cover 221 miles of railway.

The United States geographical survey has just issued a map of New York and vicinity. The map is engraved on copper and printed from stone. The cultural features, such as roads, railroads, cities, towns, houses, etc., as well as the lettering, are brought out in black, and other features, like swamps, etc., are clearly defined, making a valuable chart of the territory.

More matches are used in the United Kingdom than in any other one country in the world. It has been estimated that English people use an average of eight matches each person per day, and annually over 1,700,000,000,000 are burned. The largest match factory is in Austria, and each year it uses 22,000 pounds of phosphorus, turns out 2,500,000,000,000 matches, and for the boxes alone 160,000 feet of wood are used.

One pound a day is said to be the most that an organ grinder ever takes, while, with some exceptions, five shillings is about the least, so that a London organ grinder may be regarded as a fairly prosperous man. An organ can be hired from the makers for one shilling sixpence a day, while the price of a new organ is £25. The cost of setting an organ to new tunes is about four pounds, and, since novelty is essential, this is a frequent source of expense.

If you wish to make a fountain pen, take two ordinary steel pens of the same pattern and insert them in the common holder. The inner pen will be the writing pen. Between this and the outer pen will be held a supply of ink, when they are once dipped into the inkstand, that will last to write several pages of manuscript. It is not necessary that the points of the two pens should be very near together, but if the flow of ink is not rapid enough the points may be brought nearer by a bit of thread or a minute rubber band.

HABITS OF SPEECH.

Faulty Language Used in Childhood Is Hard to Correct in After Life.

"Why do educated parents allow their children to contract habits of ungrammatical speech that will have to be conquered in after-life?" asked a spinster of a mother.

"Because they hate to worry the poor little things about such matters when they are young and should be care free. It seems cruel to be all the time correcting them and keeping them on their good behavior. They will have to learn the rules of our dreadful language all too soon as it is."

"Yes," said the spinster, "and in addition to learning to speak properly they will have to unlearn the tricks of speech in which they have been allowed to indulge all their little lives. I know," laughing, "that there is much ridicule of 'old maids' children,' but I believe that my theory in this case is correct. It is a positive unkindness to let your child double his negatives and say 'ain't,' when several years from now he will be harshly reproved for such lapses. The child must learn to talk, anyway, and is it not as easy to teach him to say 'It is I,' as 'It's me?' And is it not as simple for the little tongue to lisp 'I saw it,' as 'I seen it?' I love baby talk, and should not correct a child for his mispronunciation of hard words. As he grows older he will himself see his mistakes in that line and change them. But I insist that it is a parent's duty to make the difficult path to grammatical speech as easy as possible by never allowing the little ones to stray from it in the beginning."

PA AND THE PINS.

Some Things He Knew About Them and Some Others That He Discovered Very Unexpectedly.

The parlor lamp shed its peaceful rays on a happy group of five persons. There was the head of the family and the one who called himself the head of the family, their two daughters, aged respectively 18 and 8, and a boy of 11 years. The father carefully removed a bent pin from the seat of the rocking chair and stood holding it between his thumb and forefinger.

"My son," he said, pompously, "did you ever, when you saw a discarded, bent, little pin, pause and reflect how long it took to make it and how many different hands contributed toward fashioning it as it is? In the first place there were the miners who dug the metal it is composed of; the men who transported it to the factories; the workmen who made the pins; the workmen who sharpened them; the men who packed them; the dealers who sold them to tradesmen; the men that carried them to the stores and the salesmen who retailed them over the counters—just think what an army of laborers handled that crooked little pin."

"Yes," said his son and heir reflectively, "but you left out a lot, pa."

"How so?" asked the old gentleman, in a tone of surprise.

"Why, there was the old lady who bought a paper of 'em; there was her biggest daughter, who took one to pin up the rip in the waist of her dress; the young man that told 'em at the office that it was the cat that made that railroad map scratch on the back of his hand; the girl's little brother, who borrowed the pin to make into a fish hook; the little sister, whose straw hat he took to keep his angleworms in, and his old father, who sat down on the bent pin when his little boy got tired of fishing. They all had a hand in it, too."

"No," said the old gentleman, as he threw the pin in the fire and took up his newspaper. "You are drawing on your imagination, my son. I never found a pin that went through such a series of experiences in my life."

"Maybe you haven't, but you will," remarked his son and heir.

"No, no! Run out and play," replied his father. "I am going to sit in my—"

But before he sat down he noticed that his eldest daughter was mending a tear in her dress, while the little one was wiping the stains from a straw hat; so he pushed his arm-chair aside with a suspicious glance at a gleaming point on its seat and sank wearily on to the sofa. However, ere he had fairly touched its surface he bounded toward the zenith with a yell of anguish.

"The old man couldn't very well have helped finding it," said the small boy to himself, as he stopped to regain his breath two blocks off, "cause there was a pin on every blamed piece of furniture in that room. My, but won't ma give it to him for swearin' like that, though!"—Harlem Life.

No Light Drinker.

Mudge—Yes, I do take a few drinks of an evening, but none during the day. I am no daylight drinker.

Yabsley—No one ever accused you of being any kind of a light drinker.—The Rival.

Painful Recollections.

Mrs. Slimdiet—You don't seem to like rice very well, Mr. Peck.

Henry Peck—It is associated with one of the most distressing mistakes I ever was guilty of.—Tit-Bits.

Anyone Ought to Know.

Mistress (to Norah)—What must be the condition of a person in order to be buried in consecrated ground?

Norah (in great surprise) — Dead, mum!—Judge.

The Pity of It.

Snodgrass—The world has a place for everybody.

Micawber—Yes; the only trouble is, there's generally somebody else in it.—Tit-Bits.

AUDITOR'S NOTICE.

In the Estate of Henry Grubb, Sr., deed. } In the Orphan's Court of Snyder Co., Pa.

The undersigned Auditor appointed by the Orphans' Court of Snyder County, "to distribute the funds in the hands of Henry Grubb, Jr., Administrator of the Estate of Henry Grubb, Sr., late of Centre Township, Snyder Co., Pa., deceased, as appears by his first and final account, and to make report to the next term of Court," will sit at the office of Jacob Gilbert, Esq., in Middleburg, Snyder County, Pa., on FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1899, at 11 o'clock A. M., for the purpose of fulfilling the duties of his appointment; when and where all parties in interest shall attend, and present their claims on said fund. HORACE ALLEMAN, Auditor.

Aug. 5, 1899.